

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

As requested, a new more descriptive title has been affected by the above-amendment.

In response to the formal objections to the drawings, a new substitute set of formal drawings is also attached - - including the additional "prior art" label for Figure 1.

The abstract and specification have also been amended so as to put them in more traditional U.S. format.

In response to the formal objections to claim 9, this claim has been amended to avoid the erroneous repetition of the word "subsequent". All of the original claims 1-10 have also been amended to place them in more traditional U.S. format while also emphasizing that the Applicant's claimed invention involves multiple customers served by a single telephone number line destination in the telecommunications network.

Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the Applicants favor.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102, as allegedly anticipated by Yacenda '418 is respectfully traversed.

In Yacenda, each called party (searched party) is identified by a respective identity number (telephone number) so that incoming calls are specifically directed to an individual PBX user. Using the locator system, calls for an individual are directed to a telephone near to where that individual is located unless he/she is in DND mode or is in

an environment with multiple other persons. Generally speaking however, apart from entering DND mode (Col. 16, line 56 – Col. 17, line 2), creating a call screening list (Col. 21, line 7 – line 23) and activating the ring when alone feature (Col. 25, lines 40-52) it is the calling (searching) party who has the control of the call destination.

In regard to Yacenda's call screening list, it is the individual telephone extension (called party identifier) which is used to create a call screening list associated with that one party (Col. 21, lines 20-23), such that all calls are directed to the called party's number by calling parties and are screened by calling line identity (or searching party identity) for through connection if permitted or diversion to a voice mail box associated with that individual.

By contrast, the present invention addresses the problem of several users in a shared telephone number environment having effectively a single voice mail box associated with the single telephone number. Thus, incoming calls are not directed to a specific user identified by an individual telephone number (as in Yacenda) but to a single telephone number shared by a number of users.

Accordingly, the present invention uses features of the incoming call (such as solicited responses to inquiries, calling line identify or the like) to direct calls for some callers to the shared telephone line to the voicemail box and associating the received voice message with a specific one of the multiple sharing users while at the same time also permitting other calls to be switched through to ring the telephone thereby possibly

avoiding messages having to be taken by one user for other users but not preventing calls a called party who may be present.

The exemplary embodiment of the invention also has the advantage of providing privacy to each of the multiple users of the shared telephone number in so far as each has effectively got a private voice mailbox without having a single (private) telephone number. The basic operation of the privacy system is described in Applicant's specification, for example, at page 5, line 13-30 and at page 6, lines 7-13, and the private retrieval facility is described at page 6, line 18 – page 7, line 5.

These deficiencies having been noted with respect to some of the claimed features in an independent claim, it is not believed necessary to further explain the deficiencies of Yacenda with respect to other features of the independent claim or any features of the dependent claims at this time. Of course, Applicant reserves the right to do so should it become necessary or desirable in some later proceeding.

The rejection of claims 6, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103, as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Yacenda in view of Matthews '129 is also respectfully traversed.

Fundamental deficiencies of the primary reference (Yacenda) with respect to at least parent claim 1 have already been noted above. The secondary reference to Matthews '129 does not supply even those fundamental deficiencies. Accordingly, it is not believed necessary at this time to further explain the deficiencies of the secondary reference to Matthews '129.

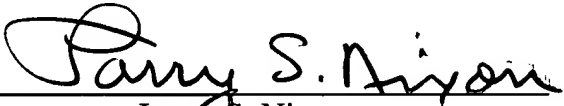
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The Examiner's attention is also drawn to new method claims 11-20 which can be seen to have analogy to apparatus claims 1-10 respectively.

Accordingly, it is believed that this entire application is now in condition for allowance and a formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

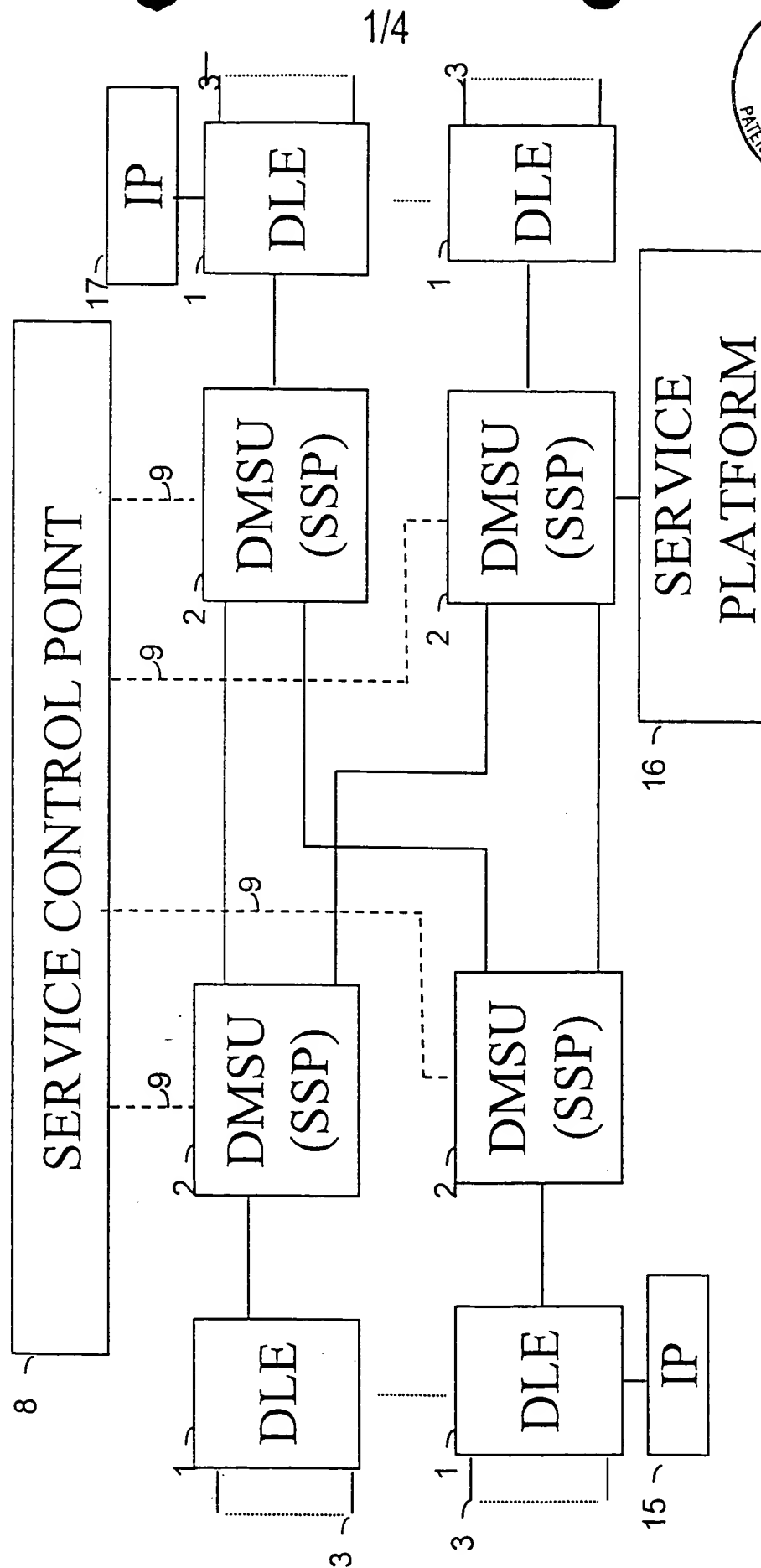
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PROPOSED DRAWING AMENDMENTS

FOR SN 09/581,614



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Fig 1
(PRIOR ART)